TRUTH SQUAD: Bulletin No. 1

To answer the Select Leaks of the Select Committee

Select Committee Rumour -

"Investigators" for the Select Committee are stating that MARK LANE, who apparently does not want JAMES EARL RAY to testify, may "pull some last-minute surprise to foil the probe." - The Memphis Commercial Appeal August 13, 1978

Facts -

MARK LANE asked JAMES EARL RAY if he would testify before a Committee of Congress even before the Select Committee was established by a vote of Congress. Soon after the Select Committee was established, RICHARD SPRAGUE, general counsel for the Committee, asked MARK LANE again to urge RAY to testify. LANE did so. RAY met with SPRAGUE and other attorneys with the Select Committee on many occasions in the Brushy Mountain Penitentiary and answered all questions put to him. RAY asked for and then insisted upon the right to testify publicly before the Committee. On July 21, 1978, Representative STOKES, the Chairman of the Committee, suggested to RAY that it might be better if he did not testify in Washington. Representative SAWYER, a member of the Committee, said that he opposed permitting Ray to testify. STOKES said that the Committee would consider whether it would "indulge" RAY by granting his "request" to testify.

Some members of the Select Committee argued against allowing RAY to have an opportunity to present his side. Finally, after a highly placed administration official, no longer in Congress, urged that RAY be permitted to testify, the Committee reluctantly agreed to call him but decided to "poison the water" first by presenting the prosecution case against him.

BLAKEY did not inform RAY or his attorney LANE that evidence against RAY was to be presented on August 14th and 15th and only after LANE learned of that planned maneuver through a Committee leak and insisted upon his right to be present on those dates, did BLAKEY relent and offer him one ticket of admission for the 14th and 15th of August.

Now the Committee is leaking the story that LANE does not want RAY to testify and that RAY is reluctant to testify.

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Washington, D.C.

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